
Manner: HOMICIDE

A death is classified as a homicide when the death results from injuries inflicted by another person. The person thus responsible for the injuries may be charged with murder or manslaughter by the prosecuting attorney, or the prosecuting attorney may decline to file charges. During 2000, 73 deaths were classified as homicide. This number represents 5% (73/1,506) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 2000. Of these 73 homicides, 66 were the result of incidents that occurred within King County. There were 89 homicides investigated in 1999, of which 82 were incidents in King County and 78 of 90 in 1998.

Reviewing weapons responsible for homicidal death in 2000 shows that 53% (39/73) were firearms, compared to 1999, when 58% (52/89) were due from firearms. Twenty-two percent (16/73) of the homicidal victims died as a result of stabbing by a sharp-edged instrument - most commonly a knife. There were 18% (13/73) of deaths due to impact injuries. There were four (4) deaths due to strangulation/asphyxia. One (1) death was due to other homicidal means.

There were four (4) homicide victims between one and five years of age. Two (2) homicide victims were between six and twelve years of age. Eight (8) homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 19 years. There were no homicide victims between 13 and 15 years of age during 2000.

Examining racial distribution of victims of homicide, 29% (21/73) of the victims were black, compared to 1999, when 33% (29/89) of the victims were black. This is an over-representation in King County where, according to 2000 Census data, blacks make up approximately 5% of the county's population. Whites while representing 76% of the population, made up 55% (40/73) of the homicide victims. The remaining 16% of homicide victims (12/73), included Asians/Pacific Islanders, Native Americans and others. Men comprised 75% (55/73) and women 25% (18/73) of the victims. The majority of victims, 51% (37/73) were between the ages of 20 and 39 years. Young people 19 years old and under comprised 21% (15/73) of the homicide victims, which compared to 1999, when youths represented 18% (16/89). Ninety-two percent (67/73) of the victims were tested for the presence of alcohol. Of those tested 46% (31/67) showed alcohol present at the time of death.

Of the 73 homicidal deaths in 2000, ninety percent (66/73) of the fatal incidents occurred within King County and of these deaths, 37 occurred within the city limits of Seattle. In 7 of the 73 homicidal deaths the fatal incident occurred outside of King County. However, the victims were transported to area hospitals within county lines prior to death justifying King County Medical Examiner jurisdiction upon death.

The relationship of victim to assailant was not tabulated as part of this report. In order to investigate such associations, additional review of police records would be necessary.

Graph 4-1

Homicidal Methods in 2000

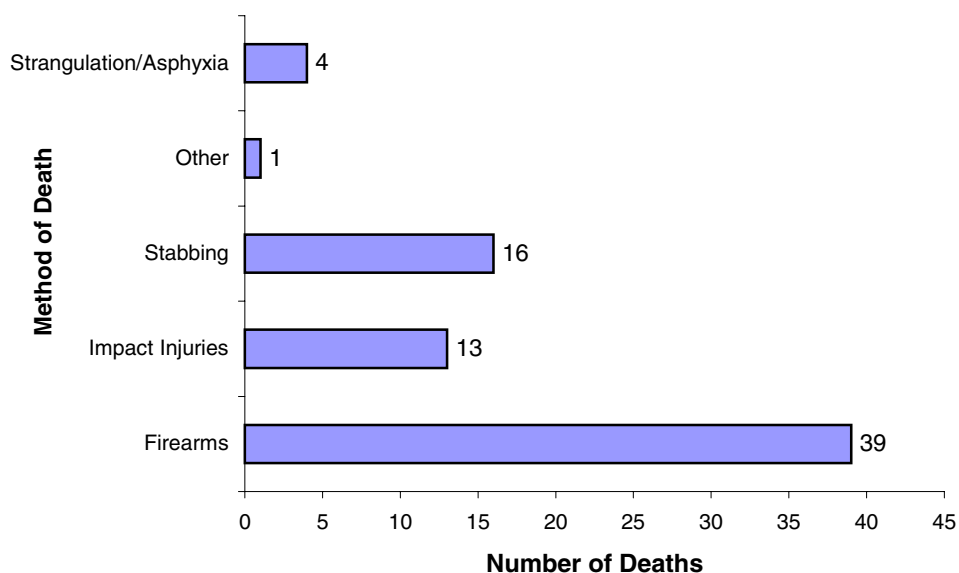


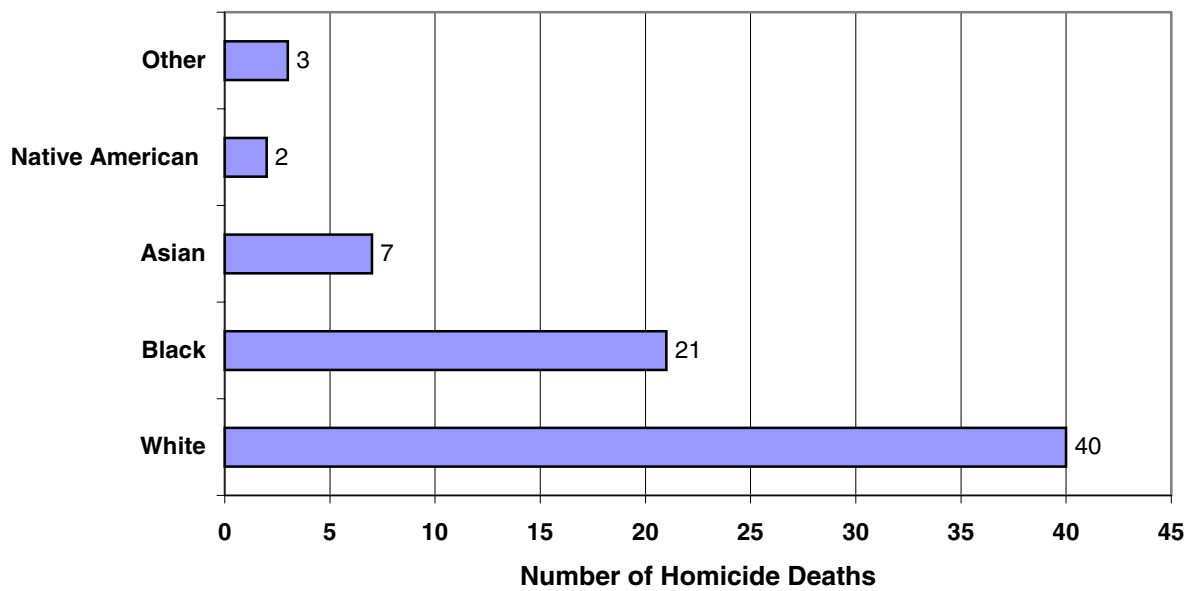
Table 4-1 Homicidal Methods and Race of the Victim

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	3	1	0	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	1	1	0	0	0	2	
Firearms	18	13	6	0	2		39
<i>Male</i>	12	12	6	0	2	32	
<i>Female</i>	6	1	0	0	0	7	
Impact Injuries	8	3	0	1	1		13
<i>Male</i>	6	3	0	1	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	1	3	
Stabbing	10	4	1	1	0		16
<i>Male</i>	6	3	1	0	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	4	1	0	1	0	6	
Other	1	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	40	21	7	2	3		73
Percent	54.8	28.8	9.6	2.7	4.1		

Table 4-2 Homicidal Methods and Age Group of the Victim

METHOD/ GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)													SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	< 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0		4
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	
Firearms	0	0	0	0	6	17	6	5	3	0	1	1	0		39
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	6	15	5	4	2	0	0	0	0	32	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	7	
Impact Injuries	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	0		13
<i>Male</i>	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	
Stabbing	0	0	1	0	1	4	6	3	1	0	0	0	0		16
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	
Other	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	1	4	2	0	8	23	14	11	5	0	3	2	0		73
Percent	1%	5%	3%	0%	11%	32%	19%	15%	7%	0%	4%	3%	0%		

Graph 4-2 **Homicide Deaths and Race of the Victim**



Graph 4-3 **Homicide Deaths and Age Group of the Victim**



Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		UNDER 16	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+		
Asphyxia/ Strangulation	WHITE	0	0	0	1	1	1		3
	Male	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	BLACK	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Firearms	WHITE	0	5	5	4	0	4		18
	Male	0	5	3	3	0	1	12	
	Female	0	0	2	1	0	3	6	
	BLACK	0	0	6	3	4	0		13
	Male	0	0	6	3	3	0	12	
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	ASIAN	0	1	5	0	0	0		6
	Male	0	1	5	0	0	0	6	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	OTHER	0	0	1	0	0	1		2
	Male	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Impact Injuries	WHITE	2	1	0	0	2	3		8
	Male	2	1	0	0	2	1	6	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	
	BLACK	1	0	1	1	0	0		3
	Male	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	NATIVE AMER.	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	OTHER	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	

Table 4-3 (Cont...) Homicide Deaths by Age/Race/Gender

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		UNDER 16	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+		
Stabbing	WHITE	1	0	4	2	2	1		10
	Male	0	0	4	1	1	0	6	
	Female	1	0	0	1	1	1	4	
	BLACK	0	1	0	2	1	0		4
	Male	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	ASIAN	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	NATIVE AMER.	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Other	WHITE	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL BY AGE		7	8	23	15	10	10		73

Table 4-4 Homicidal Methods and Gender of the Victim

METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia/Strangulation	2	2	4
Firearms	32	7	39
Impact Injuries	10	3	13
Stabbing	10	6	16
Other	1	0	1
Total	55	18	73
Percent	75%	25%	

Table 4-5 Homicidal Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Victim

METHOD	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Asphyxia/Strangulation	2	2	0	4
Firearms	17	19	3	39
Impact Injuries	4	6	3	13
Stabbing	8	8	0	16
Other	0	1	0	1
Total	31	36	6	73
Percent	42.5%	49.3%	8.2%	